

APR 17 2006

Attorney's Docket No. 038190-236031

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Scott Edwin Black, et al.

Confirmation No.: 4547

Appl No.: 09/918,945

Group Art Unit: 3623

Filed: July 31, 2001

Examiner: R. Jeanty

For: METHOD, SYSTEM AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT
FOR ANALYZING MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS AND ASSESSING
THE READINESS OF REPAIRABLE SYSTEMSMail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

This is in response to the Office Action dated September 19, 2005, in which the Examiner has required restriction between Group I, namely Claims 1-15 and 20-25, and Group II, namely Claims 16-19 and 26-29. Applicant hereby provisionally elects with traverse to prosecute the claims of Group I (Claims 1-15 and 20-25) and expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications or take such other appropriate measures deemed necessary to protect the inventions in the remaining claims.

Should the Examiner have further questions or comments with respect to examination of this case, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned so that further examination of this application can be expedited.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those, which may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,


Guy R. Gosnell
Registration No. 34,610CUSTOMER NO. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the US Patent and Trademark Office at
Fax No. (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.


Gwen FrickhoefferNovember 21, 2005
Date